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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Tallinn

1. It would appear that the main base of the Soviet Navy in Estonian waters is Tallinn. A comparatively large number of warships can be seen on the roadstead periodically. Training cruises and manoeuvres are apparently carried on from time to time. Very heavy gunfire (from large calibre guns and quite prolonged) can be heard at times during the day and also at night.
2. In the former Noblessner Works on Soo Street, the old stone signal tower is still used for sending signals by flags and lights to sea. On this same tower are also hoisted the weather signals with spheres and triangles.
3. Among the vessels observed in Tallinn roads have been two liners, cruisers of modern build (large, slim, long, with two or three funnels) and smaller cruisers, destroyers of old and new types, torpedo boats and many torpedo cutters, and submarines which appeared to be very large compared with those formerly belonging to the Estonian Republic. During the Song Festival which was held in 1950, there were at least thirty ships in the roads, besides the two liners. They were illuminated after dusk, and, looking down from the Patkul steps, it appeared as if the roadstead were completely filled with ships. None of the ships' names were known, and the cap-bands of the sailors bore only the inscription of the "Red Flag Baltic Fleet". In 1949 and in 1950, however, some sailors were seen in Tallinn whose cap-bands had the inscription of the Black Sea Fleet.

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4. The naval headquarters in Tallinn is located in the former Supreme Headquarters of the Home Guard (Kaitseliidu Peastaap). Proceeding from there to the left along Wismar Street and then turning to the left on Toom puistee, towards Kaarli Church, and back to the Kaitseliidu Peastaap, outlines a district in which all the buildings are occupied by naval personnel, with the exception of the former Ministry of Agriculture, in which are now located the Tallinn and Republic Courts of Justice. Another area given over to naval personnel is that extending from the last stop of the Kadrioru street-car towards the sea, from there to the "Rusalka" monument, and around through the park back to Poska Street. From the same street-car stop, a short distance towards Kadrioru (sic) is the house of the former head of the State, Jaakson, which is occupied by senior naval officers. Other buildings occupied by naval establishments are the former "Tolli" house (which extends from Endla Street to Luise Street on Toom puistee), and the big house across Luise Street at the corner of Toom puistee. The former Noblessner shipyards on Soo Street, opposite the "Volta" Works, are being used as naval repair yards, and a naval establishment is located in the former administration building.¹
5. The Chief Administration of the Militia (sic) is located in a six-story triangular house at the corner of Parnu maantee and Sakala Street in Tallinn.
6. Naval personnel are also stationed in Manniku.

Paldiski

7. Paldiski is a smaller base of the Soviet Navy, about which no particulars are available. It is very strictly isolated, and the town and surroundings have been cleared of local population. Nothing is known of what has been done or what is still being done there, except that a great many trains go to Paldiski with all sorts of building materials, timber, cement, gravel, etc., but no new railway has been built.
8. On the coast from Paldiski to Laulasmaa (Bay of Lahepere, East of Paldiski) the same situation exists; some construction work is being done, about which nothing is known. It is rumored that large numbers of military personnel are also in that area.
9. Between Paldiski and Tallinn, other areas which have been cleared of population are the districts of Rannamoisa and Suurop (sic; perhaps Suuropi?), and on the highway from Paldiski to Tallinn, where there is a road to Kooc-al-mara (sic; possibly Klooga-Ranna) (approximately one-half kilometer from Pakumae) (sic). At the beginning of this road is a notice-board with the warning in Russian and in Estonian that entry without a permit is prohibited. From there it can be seen that starting from this road and going straight down to the sea is a newly built wooden fence which effectively protects the zone from the observations of the curious.

The Islands

10. Naissaar and Aegna are reputed to be strongly fortified. They were cleared of population a long time ago, and there is no authentic news about them.
11. On Saaremaa and Hiiumaa, fortification work is being carried out constantly, and the areas under construction are strictly isolated. [redacted] the local population was cleared from these construction areas a long time ago. When going to and from Saaremaa, there are document controls at Virtsu (on the mainland) and at Kuivast (on Muhu Island).

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The Gulf of Finland

12. Along the coast of the Gulf of Finland is a ploughed strip fifty meters wide, supplemented in places with a barbed wire fence. There are also many observation posts and towers, manned by frontier guards, some with dogs. Aircraft circle about the Gulf of Finland, and there are fast motor boat patrols.

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13. There are no independent fishermen left now in the Gulf of Finland, as they are all united in the fishery artels and fishery kolkhozy.

14. Conditions on the shore of the Gulf of Finland at present are not as good as they were in 1948, when there was no ploughed strip, and fuel was easier to obtain then.

1. Comment:

Noblessner shipyard may refer to the former Peterswerft yard, now called Morskoy Zavod shipyard, in the "new" harbor area of Tallinn.

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